

### **This I Believe**

In my life, I want to have my own business and be able to own a beautiful house overlooking the sea. I want to be able to cycle or fish whenever I want. I want to have many good friends by my side and spend quality time with them. This is how I want to live my life. To me, that is true happiness. I believe that true happiness is spending quality time with people who are important to me and that money does not necessarily make one happy.

Last year during the holidays, I finally met up with my primary school friends. Due to our busy schedules, we were only able to meet up during the school holidays. As we have not seen each other for a long period of time and we really missed one another, I was excited and looking forward to the meeting. After arriving at East Coast Park, we just walked around and talked about how we were coping with our school work and life; what subject combinations we took, what were the latest fashions, which Korean band we adored the most; basically, we talked about everything under the sun. Although all we did was just to hang out with one another, enjoying the view of the serene sea and ships, I was really happy and I had thoroughly enjoyed myself. I never imagined that doing something so simple such as talking and admiring a fascinating view could have made me so happy. Even if at a point of time, no one was talking, I still felt comfortable in their presence. I did not even need to stop and think whether I am happy or not because I am with my friends. Friends are people in my life that can give me true happiness. They are people who I can rely on and in times of need, be the person who can lend them a shoulder to cry on. I am glad that I have many good friends and I wish to make more good friends and make the most out of their company.

Margaret Young once said, "Often people attempt to live their lives backwards; they try to have more things, or more money, in order to do more of what they want, so they will be happier. The way it actually works is the reverse. You must first be who you really are, then do what you need to do, in order to have what you want."

Personal satisfaction is better than material satisfaction. Money is not what makes me happy. I would much rather be outside enjoying what I can while I can. Even though with money, I can follow the latest fashions, have the best accessories there are, and many other things, but what's the point in having them if I am not enjoying what I am doing? As long as I have the time to do the things I love and enjoy, I believe I will be truly happy.